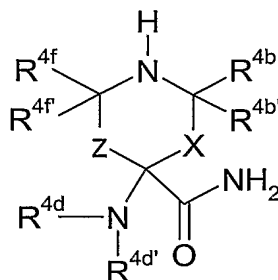


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing a compound of Formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R^{4b} and $R^{4b'}$ are each independently hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

X is a bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$ or $-C(R^{4c})(R^{4c'})-$, where R^{4c} and $R^{4c'}$ are each independently hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

R^{4d} is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_3-C_6) cycloalkyl, or taken together with $R^{4d'}$ forms a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing an additional heteroatom selected atom N, O, or S;

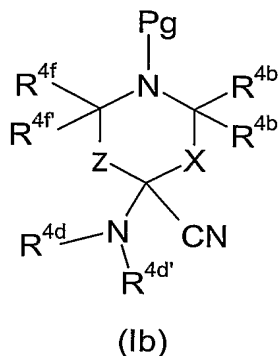
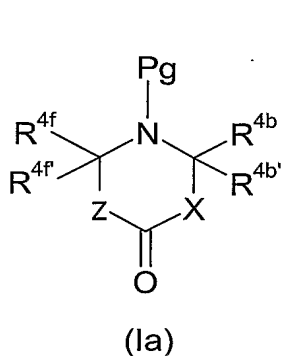
$R^{4d'}$ is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, or taken together with R^{4d} forms a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing an additional heteroatom selected from N, O or S;

Z is a bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$, or $-C(R^{4e})(R^{4e'})-$, where R^{4e} and $R^{4e'}$ are each independently hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl; and

R^{4f} and $R^{4f'}$ are each independently hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

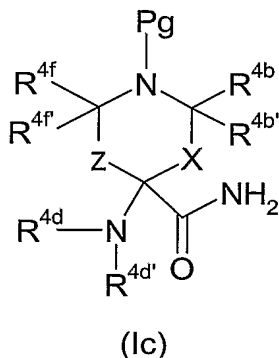
comprising the steps of

(1) reacting a compound having a formula $R^{4d}-NH-R^{4d'}$ and a cyanide source with a compound of Formula (Ia) to form an intermediate of Formula (Ib)



where Pg is a amino-protecting group and R^{4b}, R^{4b'}, X, Z, R^{4d}, R^{4d'}, R^{4f} and R^{4f'} are as defined above;

- 5 (2) hydrolyzing the nitrile group of the compound of Formula (Ib) with alkaline hydrogen peroxide in the presence of dimethylsulfoxide to form a compound of Formula (Ic)



10 where Pg, R^{4b}, R^{4b'}, X, Z, R^{4d}, R^{4d'}, R^{4f} and R^{4f'} are as defined above;

- (3) removing the amino-protecting group to form the compound of Formula (I); and
 (4) optionally forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound of Formula (I).

15

2. The process of Claim 1 wherein said compound of Formula (Ia) is converted to said compound of Formula (Ic) without isolating said compound of Formula (Ib).

20 3. The process of Claim 2 wherein R^{4b}, R^{4b'}, R^{4f}, R^{4f'} are all hydrogens.

4. The process of Claim 3 wherein X is -CH₂- or a bond; and Z is -CH₂- or a bond.

5. The process of Claim 4 wherein R^{4d} is (C₁-C₆)alkyl and R^{4d'} is hydrogen.

6. The process of Claim 5 wherein X and Z are both a bond.

7. The process of Claim 5 or 6 wherein R^{4d} is ethyl.